



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome home celebration planned for Beloit National Guard unit Sunday

More than a year after they were ordered to active duty March 15, 2003, about 80 soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1158th Transportation Company will receive an official welcome back in Beloit this weekend.

National Guard officials are planning a "welcome home" celebration for the unit members and their families Sunday morning [May 2]. The public is invited to attend.

The Wisconsin National Guard's commander, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, will lead officials participating in the welcome home. Other officials from the city of Beloit, the state legislature and the U.S. Congress have also been invited to take part.

The welcome home celebration will be held at the Beloit National Guard Armory at 2700 Kennedy Dr., beginning at 11:00 a.m. Entertainment will be provided by the National Guard's 132nd Army Band of Madison.

The 1158th Transportation was mobilized Mar. 15, 2003. The unit is based in Tomah with detachments in Black River Falls and Beloit. About half the company's soldiers were released from active duty in June but approximately 60 soldiers from Black River Falls and 80 from Beloit were assigned stateside active duty missions.

The Beloit soldiers provided transportation support to the U.S. Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Ky. They completed their mission at the end of December. After several months of rest and recuperation with family, they will now be welcomed back to the Wisconsin National Guard and the city of Beloit. The soldiers from Black River Falls returned to Wisconsin in March.

The Wisconsin Guard still has about 760 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, 380 are deployed overseas.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover this event at the Beloit armory. The armory is located at 2700 Kennedy Dr., Beloit.

The event, which is also open to the general public, will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about 30 minutes. Expected participants include Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, the Adjutant General of Wisconsin commander of the Wisconsin National Guard. Other federal, state and local officials have also been invited to participate.

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